

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

D.C./Md. Boundary Stones

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Western Ave., opposite Fessenden St. (Chevy Chase) to 16th St., (Silver

CITY, TOWN

Chevy Chase to Silver

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Spring)

STATE

Maryland

Spring

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☒ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS☒ ACCESSIBLE☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Various

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M:35-34

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

These are a series of 40 stone boundary markers erected to mark the D.C./Md. Line. Most are now encased in a steel protective cage. They are rough-hewn, rectangular-shaped stones with geographical inscriptions carved into them. The Mont. Co. markers run along the dividing line from Western Bethesda to near the Prince George's Co. Line in Takoma Park.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:35-34

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

These markers pre-date the Nation's Capital itself, as they were erected at the time of the Federal City survey in 1791-92. The survey and marking was conducted by Andrew Ellicott and Benjamin Banneker (a free Negro-who also completed L'Enfant's plans for the layout of Washington, D.C.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Nye, Edwin Darby. "Revisiting Washington's Forty Boundary Stones, 1972", RECORDS OF THE COLUMBIA HIST. SOC., (1971-72).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

6/10/74

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

The Federal Survey of 1791 of the newly designated Federal Capital Territory was commissioned by Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson in February 1791. The Survey, conducted by Major Andrew Ellicott with assistance from Benjamin Bannecker, was begun in February 1791 and completed in January 1793. When completed it represented the first official designation of the new Federal Capital and provided a basis for future city planning by Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant.

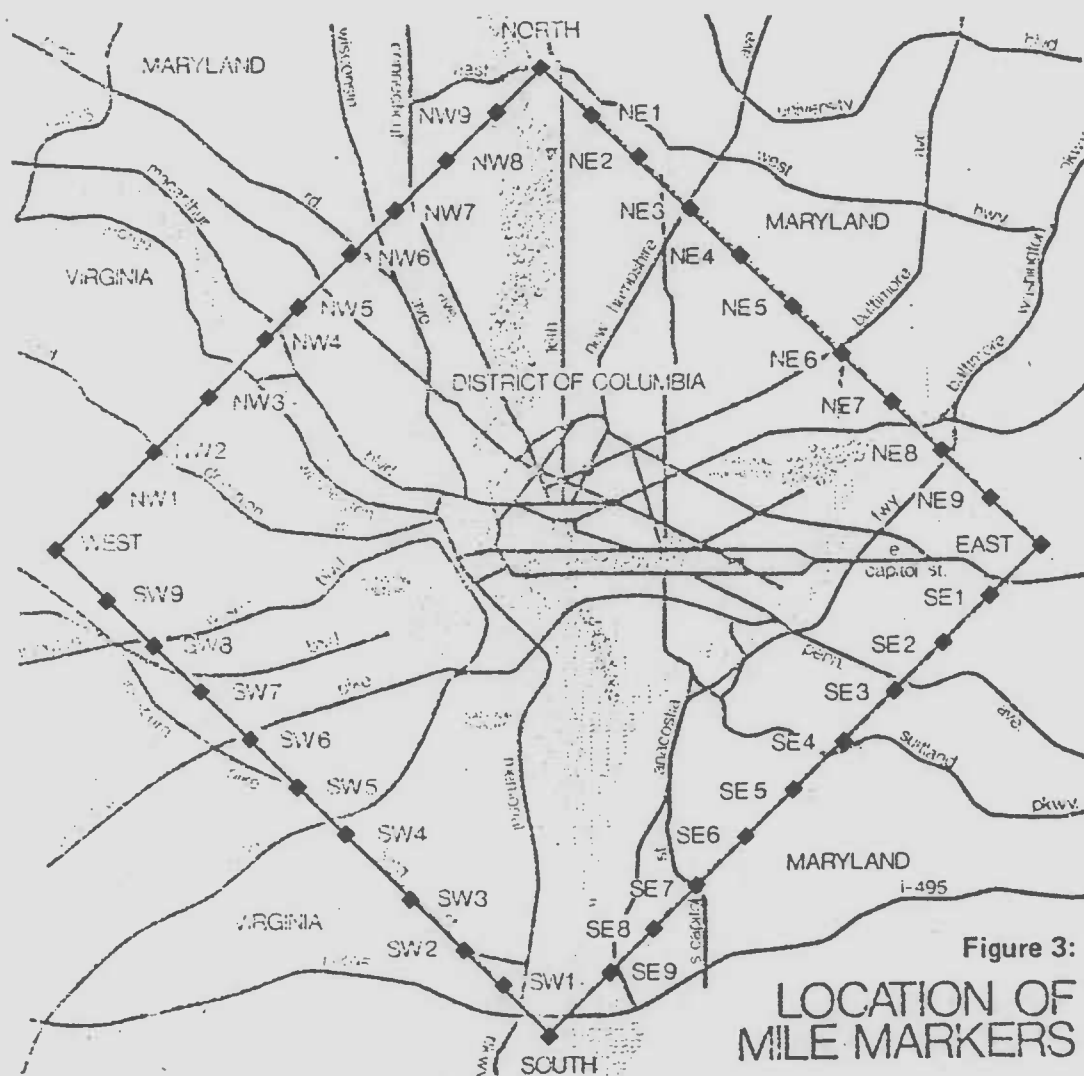
The original Federal Capital designation consisted of a forty mile square, encompassing land on both sides of the Potomac River in the States of Virginia and Maryland. Each side of the square was surveyed cutting meridians at a 45° angle such that the square had north, east, south, and west corners, with northeast, southeast, southwest, and northwest sides. The south corner stone was laid first, at Jones' Point, Virginia, on February 12, 1791. From Jones' Point Ellicott laid out the ten-mile square in a clockwise direction. Lines were measured by means of a chain which was examined and corrected each day to ensure that the links had not opened and that there was no other change affecting accuracy. Sandstone markers were placed at every mile along each side, except where the miles terminated in declivities or in water, in which case they were placed on the first firm ground and their true distances marked in miles and poles (see Figure 3). Each stone was inscribed with the words "Jurisdiction of the United States," "State of Maryland" or "State of Virginia," the year the stone was placed, and the conditions of the magnetic needle at that location (see Figure 3).

Andrew Ellicott was commissioned to complete the survey as one of the most well-known professional colonial surveyors. He possessed some of the finest surveying instruments in the United States at the time and had been involved in several important surveys, including location of Pennsylvania's western and northern boundaries and the first accurate measurement of the Niagara River (including the heights of the falls and the rapids). Subsequent to the Federal

Survey, Ellicott was involved with the determination of the boundary between lands of the United States and territories of France (1796 to 1800).

To assist in the survey, Ellicott enlisted Benjamin Bannecker to serve as his scientific assistant. Bannecker was perhaps the most famous Black man in colonial America, known as a scientist, inventor, and writer of one of the first series of almanacs printed in the United States. He was one of the first Black men to participate in public service to the new nation as a scientific assistant under the leadership of Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant.

Subsequent to completion of the ten-mile survey the team of Ellicott and Bannecker continued work on surveying locations of the Capitol, President's home, city parks, streets, and other public buildings in conjunction with work being performed by Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant. When L'Enfant resigned his position before the planned design of the Capital City was completed, Ellicott and Bannecker assumed responsibility for much of the remaining planning of the Capitol.



SOURCE: National Capital Planning Commission, "Boundary Markers of the Nation's Capital: A Proposal for their Preservation and Protection," U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., Summer 1976.

MD/DC Boundary Stones #1, 2, 9,
North Corner Stone, and
DC/PG County/MO County Stone,
and original site of #1
Washington West Quad, 1965, PR 1980



M: 35-34

Original Site of MD/DC Boundary
Stone #1

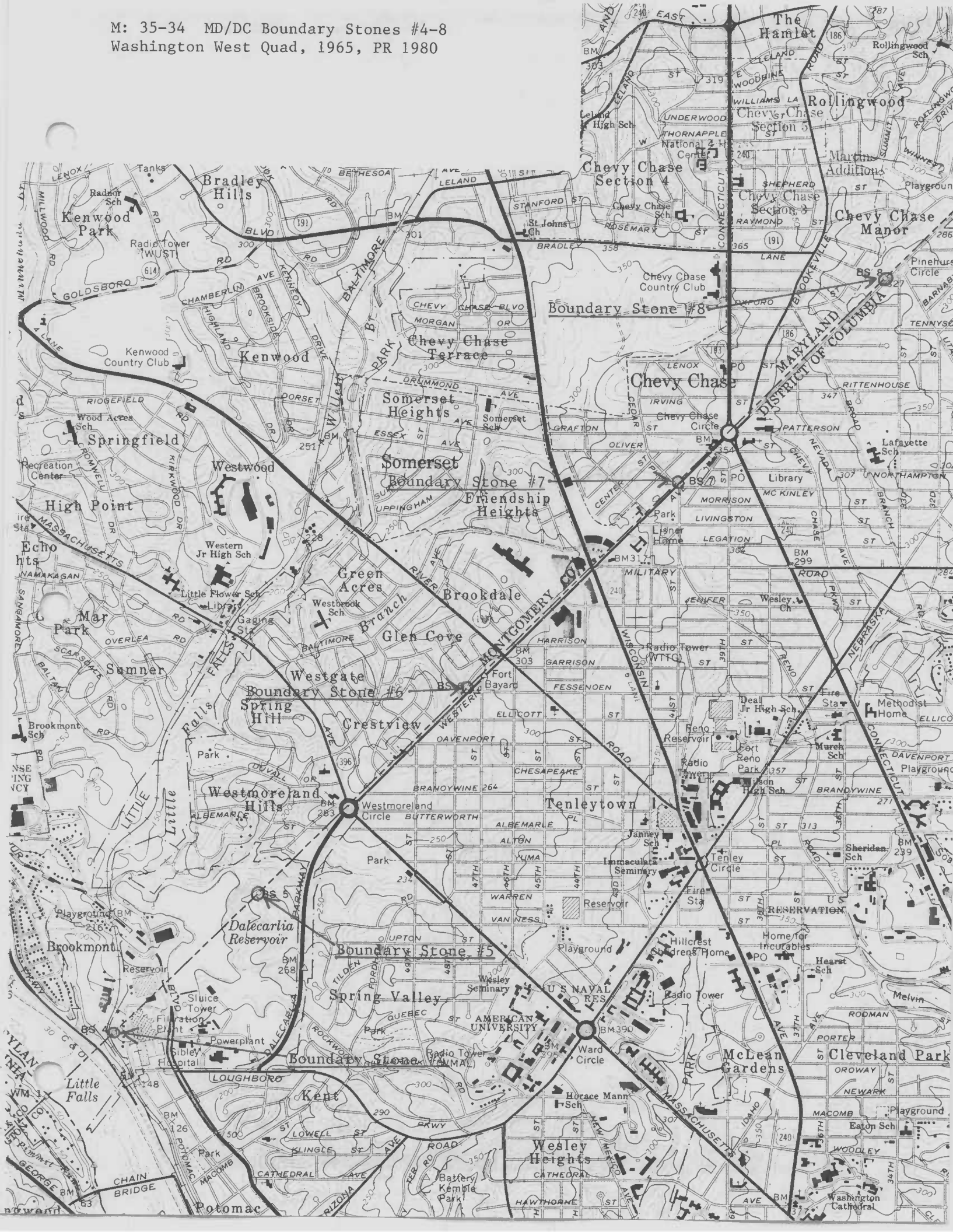
Washington West Quad, 1951

OLNEY 11.5 MI.
WHEATON 3.1 MI.

2'30"



M: 35-34 MD/DC Boundary Stones #4-8
Washington West Quad, 1965, PR 1980





NAME Md / D.C. BOUNDARY STONE

M # 35-34

LOCATION WESTERN AVE OPP. FESSENDEN ST.

CHEVY CHASE, Md

FACADE

PHOTO TAKEN 6/10/74 MDWYER